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Lottery Holds First “\$130 Million Blockbuster” \$50,000 a Year for Life Preliminary Drawing -First Two Semi-Finalists Are from Forsyth and Orange Counties-

RALEIGH- The North Carolina Education Lottery (NCEL) today announced the first two semi-finalists in the first of five preliminary drawings for the “\$130 Million Blockbuster” instant scratch-off game. These semi-finalists now will be entered into the bonus grand prize drawing for a chance to win \$50,000 a year for life with a minimum of 20 years guaranteed!

The semi-finalists from this drawing are Joseph Burleson of Winston-Salem and Willard Cotten of Carrboro. Their entries were drawn from more than 350,000 entries.

Burleson and Cotten along with the semi-finalists in the upcoming preliminary drawings will each be awarded a \$1,500 prize just for being semi-finalists. They will not only have a chance at the grand prize, but the final bonus grand prize drawing will also include prizes for the semi-finalists of \$1,000 up to \$25,000.

Burleson got his drawing entry at Circle K on Clemmons Road in Winston-Salem. Cotten got his drawing entry at Kangaroo Express on Highway 54 West in Carrboro. The next preliminary drawing will be held Dec. 30, 2008. The entry deadline for that drawing is Dec. 23.

“\$130 Million Blockbuster” is a \$10 instant scratch-off ticket. The game provides an added feature for players who scratch and reveal a “DRAWING” symbol —only those tickets can be entered into one of five preliminary drawings. Two entries will be drawn from each preliminary drawing.

The game also offers players ten chances to win \$1 million, which are paid in 20 annual installments of \$50,000 (less State, Federal and any other mandatory withholdings). Plus, there are more than 110,000 chances to win prizes between \$100 and \$50,000! More details on the drawings and the rules of the game are available on the How to Play instructions available at retail locations and can be viewed on the NCEL Web site at www.nc-educationlottery.org. Players may also call the Player Hotline at 1-877-962-7529 to request a brochure.

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100% of the North Carolina Education Lottery net proceeds are used for pre-kindergarten programs for at risk youth, reduction of class size in early grades, school construction and need-based college scholarships.

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